

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A packing method using a palette on which an article to be packed can be placed, and an article-fixing member which fixes the article on the palette, wherein

the article-fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the palette such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the palette.

Claim 2 (Original): The packing method according to claim 1, wherein the article-fixing member is wound around the article at least in a direction that is perpendicular to the plane of the palette, and when the article-fixing member is wound around the article, the article-fixing member pushes the article against the palette.

Claim 3 (Original): The packing method according to claim 1, wherein a ceiling plate which can be opened and closed is used, when the article is packed, the ceiling plate is opened, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below the ceiling plate and then, the ceiling plate is closed, a cover which covers an outer periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed, the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate are fixed to each other through the cover.

Claim 4 (Original): The packing method according to claim 3, the article is an image forming apparatus, the surface of the article is a document table located below the ceiling plate, the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic

document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to the document table, and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article-fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic document feeder having the article-fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the palette.

Claim 5 (Original): The packing method according to claim 3, wherein the document table corresponding to the surface below the automatic document feeder corresponding to the ceiling plate is provided with a sheet material whose covering area can be changed, the article-fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material, the sheet material and a cover which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder are integrally formed together, and the automatic document feeder is fixed.

Claim 6 - 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (New): A packing method using a palette on which an article to be packed can be placed, and an article-fixing member which fixes the article on the palette, wherein the article-fixing member is accommodated to the palette such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the palette, wherein a ceiling plate which can be opened and closed is used, when the article is packed, the ceiling plate is opened, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below the ceiling plate and then, the ceiling plate is closed, a cover which covers an outer periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed, the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate are fixed to each other through the cover.

Claim 23 (New): The packing method according to claim 22, the article is an image forming apparatus, the surface of the article is a document table located below the ceiling plate, the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to the document table, and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article-fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic document feeder having the article-fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the palette.

Claim 24 (New): The packing method according to claim 22, wherein the document table corresponding to the surface below the automatic document feeder corresponding to the ceiling plate is provided with a sheet material whose covering area can be changed, the article-fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material, the sheet material and a cover which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder are integrally formed together, and the automatic document feeder is fixed.